

## Amendments of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A device having a contact interface for establishing an electrical connection with an electrical component, said contact interface comprising:  
  
    ~~at least one~~ a loading fiber;  
  
    ~~at least one~~ a first conductor and a second conductor, each of said first and second  
conductors having at least one contact point, wherein said ~~at least one conductor is~~ first and  
second conductors are coupled to ~~[[a]]~~ said loading fiber;  
  
    a tensioning guide disposed between and mechanically separate from said first and  
second conductors, wherein said loading fiber is in contact with said tensioning guide when said  
device is engaged with said electrical component; and  
  
    wherein an electrical connection can be established between said at least one contact  
point of each of said ~~at least one conductor~~ first and second conductors and said electrical  
component when said device is engaged with said electrical component.
2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said device comprises a burn-in socket  
device.
3. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said device comprises a test socket device.
4. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said device comprises a circuit board.

5. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said device comprises at least one of the following: a processing unit, a memory unit or an expansion card.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein electrical connections can be established between said device and a plurality of electrical components.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[7]] 1, wherein said tensioning guide is comprised of a support column.

9. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[7]] 1, wherein said tensioning guide is comprised of a faceplate.

10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least one conductor first and second conductors is woven with said loading fiber.

11. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least one conductor first and second conductors comprises a shaped contact and a conductive lead.

12. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said loading fiber is one of a plurality of loading fibers, said plurality of loading fibers forming form a grid having a plurality of intersections and wherein at least one of said at least one conductor first and second conductors is coupled to said ~~at least one~~ loading fiber at or near an intersection of said grid.

13. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said loading fiber is one of a plurality of loading fibers, said plurality of loading fibers forming form an array having at least two layers of loading fibers and wherein at least one of said at least one conductor first and

second conductors is coupled to a loading fiber of a first layer of said array and to a loading fiber of a second layer of said array.

14. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said ~~at least one~~ loading fiber is comprised of a non-conducting material.

15. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said ~~at least one~~ loading fiber is comprised of an elastic material.

16. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said ~~at least one~~ loading fiber is comprised of at least one of the following: nylon, fluorocarbon, polyaramids, polyamids, conductive metal or natural fiber.

17. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein at least one of said ~~at least one~~ ~~conductor~~ first and second conductors has a diameter between approximately 0.0002 and approximately 0.0100 inches, inclusive.

18. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, said contact interface of said device further comprising:

an insulator disposed between [[a]] said first conductor and [[a]] said second conductor to electrically isolate said first conductor from said second conductor.

19. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, said contact interface of said device further comprising:

at least one tensioning spring; and

wherein an end of said ~~at least one~~ loading fiber is coupled to said at least one tensioning spring.

20. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, said contact interface of said device further comprising:

at least one floating end plate; and

wherein an end of said ~~at least one~~ loading fiber is coupled to said at least one floating end plate, and wherein a portion of said electrical component engages said at least one floating end plate when said device is engaged with said electrical component.

21. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, further comprising:

a high-frequency modulator that is coupled to said ~~at least one~~ loading fiber, wherein said high-frequency modulator is capable of exciting said ~~at least one~~ loading fiber at a fundamental frequency.

22. (Currently Amended) A device having a contact interface for establishing electrical connections with an electrical component, said contact interface comprising:

a plurality of loading fibers;

a plurality of conductors, wherein each conductor is coupled to at least one loading fiber;

a plurality of rigid tensioning guides, wherein a tensioning guide is disposed on at least one side of each conductor, and wherein at least a portion of said plurality of loading fibers contact said plurality of tensioning guides when said device is engaged with said electrical component; and

wherein electrical connections can be established between at least a portion of said plurality of conductors and said electrical component when said device is engaged with said electrical component.

23. (Original) The device of claim 22, wherein said device comprises a burn-in socket device.

24. (Original) The device of claim 22, wherein said device comprises a test socket device.

25. (Original) The device of claim 22, wherein said device comprises a circuit board.

26. (Original) The device of claim 22, wherein said device comprises at least one of the following: a processing unit, a memory unit or an expansion card.

27. (Original) The device of claim 22, wherein said electrical component comprises a plurality of contacts, and wherein electrical connections can be established between at least a portion of said plurality of conductors and said plurality of contacts of said electrical component when said device is engaged with said electrical component.

28. (Original) The device of claim 27, wherein said plurality of contacts of said electrical component comprises a ball grid array.

29. (Original) The device of claim 27, wherein said plurality of contacts of said electrical component comprise a surface mount array.

30. (Original) The device of claim 27, wherein said plurality of contacts of said electrical component comprises a pin grid array.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[31]]~~ 22, wherein tensioning guides are disposed on two sides of each conductor.

33. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[31]] 22, wherein said plurality of tensioning guides are comprised of a plurality of support columns.

34. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[31]] 22, wherein said plurality of tensioning guides form a grid structure comprised of a plurality of high-tensioned fibers.

35. (Original) The device of claim 22, said contact interface of said device further comprising:

a plurality of tensioning springs; and

wherein each loading fiber is coupled to a tensioning spring.

36. (Original) The device of claim 22, said contact interface of said device further comprising:

at least one floating end plate; and

wherein an end of each loading fiber is coupled to said floating end plate.

37. (Currently Amended) A device for testing the electrical integrity or functionality of an electrical component, said device comprising:

at least one loading fiber;

a plurality of conductors, wherein each conductor is coupled to at least one loading fiber;

a plurality of rigid tensioning guides, said plurality of tensioning guides being disposed on at least one side of each said conductor;

wherein electrical connections can be established between at least a portion of said plurality of conductors and said electrical component when said device is engaged with said electrical component[[:]]; and

wherein at least a portion of said at least one loading fiber contacts said plurality of tensioning guides when said device is engaged with said electrical component.

38. (Original) The device of claim 37, wherein said device comprises a burn-in socket device.

39. (Original) The device of claim 37, wherein said device comprises a test socket device.

40. (Withdrawn) A method for establishing electrical connections between a first electrical component and a second electrical component, wherein said first electrical component includes a at least one conductor and at least one loading fiber and said second electrical component includes at least one contact, said method comprising:

coupling said at least one conductor to said at least one loading fiber; and

engaging said first electrical component with said second electrical component so that said at least one contact of said second electrical connector causes a deflection of at least a portion of said at least one loading fiber of said first electrical component, wherein said deflection causes said at least one loading fiber to exert a force that maintains said at least one conductor against said at least one contact.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, wherein said coupling of said at least one conductor to said at least one loading fiber comprises winding said at least one conductor around a portion of said at least one loading fiber.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

placing a tensioning guide between a first conductor and a second conductor, wherein said at least one loading fiber comes into contact with said tensioning guide when said first electrical component is engaged with said second electrical component.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

coupling an end of said at least one loading fiber to a tensioning spring.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

arranging a plurality of loading fibers as a grid having a plurality of intersections, wherein said at least one conductor is coupled to at least one loading fiber at or near an intersection.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

arranging a plurality of loading fibers as an array having at least two layers of loading fibers, wherein said at least one conductor is coupled to a loading fiber of a first layer and to a loading fiber of a second layer.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

disposing an insulator between a first conductor and a second conductor.

47. (Withdrawn) A method for establishing electrical connections between a test device and an electrical component, wherein said test device includes a plurality of conductors and at least one loading fiber and said electrical component includes a plurality of contacts, said method comprising:

coupling said plurality of conductors to said at least one loading fiber; and



engaging said test device with said electrical component so that said plurality of contacts of said electrical connector causes a deflection of at least a portion of said at least one loading fiber of said test device, wherein said deflection causes said at least one loading fiber to exert a force that maintains said plurality of conductors against said plurality of contacts.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 47, wherein said test device is capable of testing the electrical integrity or functionality of said electrical component.

49. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 47, wherein said coupling of said plurality of conductors to said at least one loading fiber comprises winding said plurality of conductors around a portion of said at least one loading fiber.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 47, further comprising:  
placing a tensioning guide between a first conductor and a second conductor, wherein said at least one loading fiber comes into contact with said tensioning guide when said test device is engaged with said electrical component.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 47, further comprising:  
coupling an end of said at least one loading fiber to a tensioning spring.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 47, further comprising:  
arranging a plurality of loading fibers as a grid having a plurality of intersections, wherein said plurality of conductors are coupled to at least one loading fiber at or near an intersection.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

arranging a plurality of loading fibers as an array having at least two layers of loading fibers, wherein each conductor is coupled to a loading fiber of a first layer and to a loading fiber of a second layer.